

# **Town of Acton SIDEWALK COMMITTEE**

May 13, 2015  
**MEETING Minutes**

## **Agenda:**

1. Citizen's Concerns
2. April Minutes
3. Update from Engineering on Current Sidewalk Priority List
4. Land Use and Economic Development
5. "Tier 2" Street discussion, continued

Attendees: Pam, Randall, Dana, Steve, Cameren, Bettina, Kate. Selectman Peter Berry.

Citizen's Concerns – Terra Friedrichs, who addressed the Land Use and Economic Development position.

Emails received and addressed:

Status of High Street Sidewalk construction.

Parker St. Sidewalk re easement and snow shoveling liability.

April Minutes – approved. Minor edits eg Street v. Road & typos corrected.

Update from Engineering on Current Sidewalk Priority List; update not requested nor received this month. Randall had discussed with Engineering the West Acton projects, and noted they were on schedule for construction this season. Shall we ask Engineering for a generalized project timeline to help make sense of, and track, detailed progress reports? Or do all projects fit into the general sequence of: Survey > Design > Permitting > Easements > Construction ? (do easements occur earlier?)

We shall table this request for now, to see if this general sequence is sufficient.

## Land Use and Economic Development

We received from the BOS and individually reviewed "Draft Job Description, Land Use/Economic Development Director". We discussed in our meeting the purpose of the job, where and how it fits in the town government structure, and whether we had any suggestions for improvement. We did boil down our suggestion to a single inclusion (passed by unanimous vote), which Bettina will send to the BOS & Town Manager: insert "sidewalk construction" into the 7<sup>th</sup> bullet of the Job Duties:

Develop and implement coordinated approaches and creative solutions to land-use management issues in the community such as open space preservation, sidewalk construction, land acquisitions, historic preservation, affordable housing and economic development.

Tier 2" Street discussion, continued

We discussed the rating of Wetherbee Street, and its probability as a near future access route for pedestrians and biker between East Acton and the Bruce Freeman rail trail, and possible a parking area off of Wetherbee Street for rail trail access. We modified our rating street sheet to focus on the part of Wetherbee Street between the railroad bed / Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, and Route 2A, and gave it 75 points. We did not think there would or should be pedestrian or bike traffic South of the Rail Trail toward Route 2. We voted unanimously in favor to include Wetherbee Street in Tier 3.

Lawsbrook Road: We noted that to complete a continuous path from South Acton to West Concord, several separate projects would need to be completed, and it made sense to combine them. So "School Street (Hosmer to Lawsbrook)" and Lawsbrook Road are now combined into 1 project, by unanimous vote in favor, and rated at 70 points. (new designation?)

Our objective was to move some of the Tier 3 streets up in priority to Tier 2. We used "The sidewalk spreadsheet" as a reference. Each Member allocated up to 6 points to any of the Tier 3 streets, to designate its priority. The non-binding and preliminary results: (0 if not noted)

### **Tier 3**

Adams Street 1

Arlington Street (Summer to Sara) 10

Brook Street 1

Central Street (Nashoba to St. Matthews)

Coughlin Street

Forest Road 1

Harris Street 1

Hosmer Street (Concord Road to Route 2)

Hosmer Street (South of Route 2)

Lawsbrook Road, all gaps, & School Street (Hosmer to Lawsbrook) 10

Liberty Street

Maple Street

Newtown Road (Simon Willard to Minuteman) 3

Parker (Carlton to Maynard townline)

Parker Street (River to School) 1

Route 111 (Juniper Ridge to Guggins Brook/Fort Pond)

Route 27 (Acton Medical to Newtown Rd) Double-siding 5

Route 27 (Carlisle Road to 935 Main)

Route 2A (Brook to Main) Double-siding 2

Route 2A (Skyline to Harris) Double-siding 1

Route 62 (Entire Stretch) Double-siding

Rt 2A (Concord Rd to Brook St) Double-siding

Rt 2A (Townline to Concord Rd) Double-siding

School Street (Lower) 1

Stow Street (Martin to Robbins)  
Strawberry Hill Road (West of Pope) 3  
Wetherbee Street

We noted that committee members should take into account the numerical street ratings of streets when prioritizing streets, but that the numerical rating for double-siding of a major road is less meaningful, and judgment must be used.  
The process will continue at the next meeting.

**Homework for all:** Walk or Drive any of the Tier 3 streets you are not familiar with, especially the 12 that made the first non-binding prioritization.

Meeting adjourned 8:30.

**Next meeting:** June 10.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Evans

**Current Sidewalk Priority List**

1. Great Road (Davis to Main)
2. High Street (77 to Parker)
3. Great Road (Main to Woodvale)
4. Summer (Central to Willow, plus gap at Ethan Allen)
5. Taylor Road (plus part of Minot)
6. Parts of Stow and Maple (in conjunction with Train Station)
7. Willow St (Kingman to Central)
8. Main St (2A to Ledge Rock Way)
9. Great Road (Harris to Nonset by Nagog)
10. Parker St (High to Drummer)
11. Piper (tied)
12. River (plus Chadwick) (tied)

**Common abbreviations:**

SWC: sidewalk committee  
DOT: Department of Transportation  
BOS: Board of Selectmen

*Open Meeting law requires that the following must be included in the minutes:*

- ✓ Date, place, time and matters discussed.
- ✓ Summaries of discussions
- ✓ List of documents used
- ✓ Decisions made
- ✓ Actions taken
- ✓ Record of all votes (yeas, nays and abstentions).

- ✓ A list of all documents and other exhibits, such as photographs, recordings, maps and presentations used by the body at the open or executive session.

**Future Meetings Planned:** (All at 7pm at the Acton Memorial Library Conference Room, on the second Wednesday of the month, unless noted)

**2015** 6/10 7/8 8/12 9/9 10/14 11/11 12/9